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ANNFIELD PLAIN  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual Report  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
For the Year 1911.

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STANLEY,

February 25th, 1912.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to your Council the following Report for the first eleven months of the year 1911 with regard to the Factory and Workshops Act, Sanitary State, Amount of Sickness due to Zymotic Diseases, and Vital Statistics for the whole year 1911. The greatest industry of the District, Coal-mining, does not come under the supervision of your Board, as the mines are governed by their own special Acts, but the lesser industries, Trades, and general Sanitary Conditions of the inhabitants come under your jurisdiction. The year has been a prosperous one and the assistance of your Board has never been required.

### *Factory and Workshops Act.*

Under this Act, it devolves on the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector, to see after the comfort and safety of the work people as regards adequate ventilation and overcrowding, ready means of exit, and the necessary sanitary additions. In the district, there are 9 Factories and 24 Workshops, and Inspection showed that they were carried on in a satisfactory manner, there being only two minor defects which were speedily remedied. No material injurious to health is used in any of the works.

### *Surveyor's and Inspector's Department.*

The number of new houses erected and occupied during the past year was 52, 49 being self-contained and 3 double-tenemented. Of the total number, 8 houses had not less than 5 rooms, and 44 had 4 rooms and under. 45 of these houses were provided with proper water-closets, and the remainder with ash-closets adapted for frequent cleansing.

OLD PROPERTY. There were 8 Dipton Wood Houses closed during the year by arrangement with the Owners, the remainder of these houses will be closed within the next four years.

At Dipton, 2 old houses, (Dick's Houses), were closed as unfit for habitation.

At South Pontop Colliery, 3 of the old wooden houses have been closed. An undertaking was given by the Owners to close the remainder during the past year, but at the present date, 19 are still in occupation, but I understand, notices have been given to the occupiers to vacate these houses. 7 houses, viz., 5 at Beattie's Buildings and 2 at Todd's Buildings, referred to in previous reports, have been thoroughly repaired and made comfortably habitable. In 2 cases, 2 houses which were previously tenements, have been converted into 1 house.

(1) The number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Housing-Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909	...	30
(2) The number of dwelling houses which on Inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	15
(3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders	... ..	15
(4) The number of closing orders made	... ..	15
(5) The number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	... ..	10
(6) The number of dwelling houses which after the making of closing orders, were put into a state fit for human habitation	... ..	7
(7) A general character of the defects found to exist	general delapidation dampness in floors and walls	

**OUT-OFFICES.** At present, in the district, there are 375 Water Closets, 999 Ash Closets, 889 Privy Ash-pits for separate use and 474 Privy Ash-pits for joint use by 2 tenants. During the year, 15 Ash-closets and 3 Water-closets were substituted for insanitary Privy Ash-pits. Notices for the abatement of petty nuisances were served in 125 instances.

It is anticipated that with the advent of the separate officer for the Inspection of the District, there will be a more systematic inspection of dwelling houses, as owing to pressure of other matters, such as street works, &c., there has been little done in detailed inspection in this department.

**SEWAGE.** Practically the whole of the district is now well sewered and the two out-fall works at Dipton and Kyo are giving satisfaction.

**SCAVENGING and REMOVAL of REFUSE.**—This is contract work carried out under the supervision of your Inspector, and it is done in a satisfactory manner. Care is taken that the depositing of refuse creates no nuisance.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.** These are 10 in number. Inspection shewed that they were well conducted and in compliance with the Bye-Laws. On the premises of the North Eastern Railway Co. at Annfield Plain, the following meat and food was seized, condemned and destroyed by order of a Justice of the Peace, viz., 3 quarters of Beef, 4 carcasses of Mutton, 10 legs of Lamb, and 9 packages of Vegetables.

**MILK SUPPLY.** There are 17 cow-keepers and 24 milk purveyors. The former are either farmers or tenants of land, and the cows therefore, are not altogether stall-fed. Many of the cow sheds are badly in need of repairs and improvements.

**WATER SUPPLY.** The Weardale and Consett Water Company provide the district with an abundant supply of water of an excellent quality.

**LODGING HOUSES.** There are 3 Lodging Houses in the district and these are kept in fairly satisfactory condition.

### *Notifiable Diseases.*

The number of cases of notifiable diseases reported during the past year reached a total of 79, and consisted of the following, viz :—Scarlatina 34, Diphtheria 8, Enteric Fever 13, and Erysipelas 24.

**SCARLATINA.** The number of cases shewed a marked decrease compared with the previous year, being 34 as against 121. Of this number 22 were removed to the Hospital, as complete isolation was not possible at home, and probably this had a beneficial effect on the number of cases. Only one case ended fatally.

**DIPHTHERIA** also shewed a decrease in the number of cases notified, being 8 against 19 for the previous year. One case succumbed.

**ENTERIC FEVER** shewed an increase of 7, there being 13 cases for the year. In all cases except one, which was dead before receipt of notification, a blood test was taken, the result being that six gave positive results and six negative. Two of the positive cases resided in one house and one must have infected the other, otherwise in no case could any definite cause be found to account for the disease. The blood examination test is of the greatest value in clearing up doubtful cases. Three of the above cases ended fatally.

Out of a total of 55 cases suitable for Hospital treatment, 37 were removed to that Institution.

### *Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.*

**MEASLES.** Although Measles never assumed an epidemic form, it was present during the greater part of the year and resulted in 10 deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH. The same may be said of Whooping Cough as Measles. 11 cases succumbed.

DIARRHŒA AND EPIDEMIC ENTERITIS. These diseases were very prevalent during the summer weather, and were of a virulent type. Every precaution was taken to abate the epidemic. Notices were delivered from house to house giving instructions regarding the extermination of Flies and the protection of Food from contamination. There is no doubt that these instructions in a great measure helped to lessen the epidemic. If the householders would burn all household refuse instead of depositing it, there would be less chance of such wide spread of above disease. The mortality was 36.

### *Vital Statistics.*

The number of births and deaths registered during the year amounted to 516 of the former and 307 of the latter, giving a birth-rate of 32·5 and a death-rate of 18·2 per 1000 estimating the population at the end of June at 16,800. The Census shewed that the population for previous years had been over-estimated. Both the birth-rate and death-rate are above the County average.

Infantile mortality rate is high and considerably above that of the County. There were 102 deaths under one year of age, being one-third of the total number of deaths. Of these 22 were due to Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus; 12 to Premature Birth, and 2 to Congenital Defects; a total of 36 or more than one-third of the total infant deaths. 29 were due to infectious diseases and respiratory diseases accounted for 17.

The following Table gives the averages of births of deaths for the County in comparison with those of the district :—

					County.	Annfield Plain.
Birth-rate	...	(per 1,000 population)	...	...	31·7	32·5
Death-rate	...	"	...	...	16·1	18·2
Zymotic death-rate	...	"	...	...	3·01	4·04
Infantile Mortality-rate (per 1,000 births)	...		...	...	158	186·8
Small-Pox	...	(per 1,000 population)	...	...	nil	nil.
Scarlatina	...	"	...	...	·07	·06
Diphtheria	...	"	...	...	·16	·06
Enteric Fever	...	"	...	...	·16	·17
Measles	...	"	...	...	·44	·59
Whooping-Cough	...	"	...	...	·38	·55
Diarrhœa and Epidemic Enteritis	...	"	...	...	1·77	2·14
Phthisis	...	"	...	...	·88	·89
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	"	...	...	·61	·35
Acute Respiratory Diseases	...	"	...	...	2·39	3·33

For further particulars, see Government Schedules attached.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

**E. BENSON.**

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

MOORFIELD,

ANNFIELD PLAIN,

March 8th, 1912.

GENTLEMEN,—

The Sanitary Officers (outside London) Order 1910, dated December 13th, 1910, and which came into force on the 1st day of January 1911, under duties of M.O.H., paragraph 14, requires that as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year the Medical Officer of Health shall make an Annual Report to the Council up to the end of December, on the Sanitary Administration, and the Vital Statistics of the District. The same order under the duties of Medical Officer of Health paragraph 14 m, provides that, if the Medical Officer of Health shall resign or be removed before the 31st day of December in any year, he shall as soon as practicable after going out of office make to the Council, the like report for so much of the year as shall have expired when he ceased to hold office.

In accordance with those regulations Dr. Ernest Benson has made a report for the first eleven months of the year, and for the sake of convenience and to save trouble has included the Vital Statistics for the twelve months. It remains therefore for me to complete the Annual Report by adding the remaining month of December.

During this month nothing calling for remark here occurred, except that there was a mild out-break of Enteric Fever, five cases occurring in Dipton. The conditions of the drainage and milk supply were inquired into with satisfactory results. Four of the cases were sent to the Infectious Hospital and happily the out-break ceased. Removal of Refuse, with the appointment of a Sanitary Inspector in the New year, and better regulations for the Scavengers, I hope this will be improved upon, and that the Council may be able to have this work all done during night hours.

I note the number of new houses built during the past year, viz., 52, was much less than in each of the 3 previous years, viz., 1908—106, 1909—114, and 1910—191. As there is much old and insanitary property which requires demolition, new buildings, both by the Council and Private Owner, is much required. The increase of population during the past 10 years was 4,071, or yearly average of 407.1, requiring an average of 82 new houses per annum for increase of population, over and above those required to replace old, insanitary and demolished property.

During the coming year (1912), it is proposed to carry out the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation systematically. The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations come into effect on January 1st, 1912. These two regulations will entail a considerable amount of work both for the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, and it is hoped will be productive of much benefit to the community at large.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

**ALEXANDER COOK, M.D., M.S., D.P.H.**

Medical Officer of Health.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Table 1.

## ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	14,600	533		36.5	233	15.9		8	97	181.9	241	16.5
1907	15,200	514		33.8	210	13.8		21	73	142	231	15.2
1908	15,800	582		36.83	222	14.04		21	83	142.6	243	15.31
1909	16,200	584		36.05	200	12.34		18	66	113.01	218	13.46
1910	16,900	574		33.96	187	11.07		17	63	109.75	204	12.07
1911	16,800	542	546	32.5	282	16.78	2	27	102	186.8	307	18.2

Area of District in acres  
(exclusive of area  
cover by water) } 3475

Total population at all ages 16,552  
Number of inhabited houses 3,157  
Average number of persons per house 5

} At Census  
of 1911.



**Table II.**

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upward	
Small-pox ...									
Cholera ..									
Diphtheria (in- cluding Mem- branous croup	8		4	4					4
Erysipelas ..	24			3	7	7	6	1	
Scarlet fever ...	34		9	24	1				22
Typhus fever...									
Enteric fever ...	13		2	4	2	3	1	1	11
Relapsing fever									
Continued fever									
Puerperal fever									
Plague ...									
Phthisis ...									
Totals ...	79		15	35	10	10	7	2	37

Isolation Hospital at Tanfield.

Total available beds 70.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 5.



Table III.

## ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

## Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1911.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of 'Residents' whether occurring in or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or non Residents in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Enteric Fever... ..	3			1			1	1		
Small-pox ... ..										
Measles ... ..	10	1	6	3						
Scarlet fever ... ..	1				1					
Whooping-cough ... ..	11	7	3	1						
Diphtheria and Croup	1			1						
Influenza .. ...	5	2					2	1		
Erysipelas ... ..	1							1		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever										
Phthisis (Pulmonary										
Tuberculosis) ... ..	15					6	7	2		
Tuberculous Meningitis	2				2					
Other tubercular diseases ... ..	4	1				1	1	1		
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	2						2			
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	13						1	9	3	
Bronchitis ... ..	30	9	2	1			2	5	11	
Broncho-Pneumonia ... ..	14	7	5		1			1		
Pneumonia (all other forms) ... ..	10	1	3	1	1	2		1	1	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ..	2		1					1		
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	36	21	11	2					2	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... ..	4				1	1		1	1	
Puerperal fever ... ..	1					1				
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	3					1	2			
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	38	37		1						
Violent Deaths, excluded										
Suicide ... ..	12				1	2	6	1	2	
Suicides ... ..	1						1			
Other Defined Diseases	69	16	3	2	5	3	9	16	15	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown... ..	19						1	2	16	
	307	102	34	13	12	17	35	43	51	

Table IV.

## ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

1911. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Week	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Yr.
All Causes										
Certified ... ..										
Uncertified ... ..										
Small-pox ... ..										
Chicken-pox ... ..										
Measles ... ..			1		1					1
Scarlet Fever ... ..										
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..										
Whooping Cough ... ..							3	2	2	7
Diarrhea ... ..						1	1	6	3	11
Enteritis ... ..							4	3	3	10
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..										
Abdominal Tuberculosis ... ..									1	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..										
Congenital Malformations ... ..	2				2					2
Premature Birth ... ..	7	1	2	1	11	1				12
Atrophy, Debility Marasmus ... ..	3		2	1	6	7	3	4	2	22
Atelectasis ... ..										
Injury at Birth ... ..										
Erysipelas ... ..										
Syphilis ... ..										
Rickets ... ..										
Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) ... ..										
Convulsions ... ..		1			1	2	3	2		8
Gastritis ... ..								1		1
Laryngitis ... ..										
Bronchitis ... ..						3	2	3	2	10
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..							3	1	3	7
Suffocation, overlying ... ..										
Other Causes ... ..	2				2		2	3	3	10
	14	2	5	2	23	14	21	25	19	102

Nett Births in the year } legitimate 532  
 } illegitimate 14

Nett Deaths in the year of } legitimate infants 99  
 } illegitimate infants 3

February 28th, 1912.

E. BENSON, Medical Officer of Health.

ANFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

PHTHISIS: Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation.

Classes for which accommodation is provided.	By whom provided.	Where situated.	number Total of Beds.	How are patients selected?	Are patients under the care of a resident Medical Officer?	What charge, if any is made for the use of Beds?	Do the Sanitary Authority use— (1) their Isolation Hospital, or (2) their Small-pox Hospital for cases of Phthisis?	Do the Sanitary Authority reserve Beds in any Phthisis Sanatorium: If so, how many, and in what Sanatorium?	Do the Sanitary Authority provide portable open-air Shelters or Tents?
(a) Early cases	Lanchester Joint Hospital Board	Maiden Law, Lanchester	36	Recommended in first instance by their own Medical Attendant, then admission is confirmed by Medical Officer of Health or District Medical Officer according to Authority responsible for payment.	No Visiting M.O.	12/6 per week charged to the Guardians or Sanitary Authority responsible for Patient.	Small-Pox Hospital use 1.	No	No
(b) Intermediate cases.	do.	do.	Beds		do.	25/- for any cases admitted from outside Hospital area, but these are only admitted to oblige other Authorities.			
(c) Advanced cases.	do.	do.			do.				

Have the Council, or any Private Body, provided a Dispensary, ... No!

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1. INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.		Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories ... ..	9	18	1	Nil.
(Including Factory Laundries)				
Workshops ... ..	24	48		
(Including Workshop Laundries)				
Workplaces ... ..				
Total ... ..	33	66	1	

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Other Nuisances—Found 1, Remedied 1.

Sanitary Accommodation—Insufficient—Found 1, Remedied 1.

Prosecutions—Nil. Total 2.

3. HOME WORK.

Nil.

4. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Factories 9, Workshops 24. Total 33.

5. OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

E. BENSON, Medical Officer of Health.

February 28th, 1912.



